





BOROUGH OF COLCHESTER



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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1915.

COLCHESTER:

Printed by Cullingford & Co., 156 High Street.

# BOROUGH & PORT HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1915-1916.

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*Chairman :*

Alderman HENRY LAVER, J.P., M.R.C.S., F.S.A.

*Deputy-Chairman :*

Councillor R. B. BEARD, J. P.

*THE MAYOR :*

(Councillor Allen G. Aldridge.)

Councillor J. W. BARE.

Councillor T. SMITH.

„ H. J. EVERETT.

„ W. H. TAYLOR.

„ P. SANDERS.

„ A. WENT.

## STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1915.

*Medical Officer of Health, Public Analyst and Medical Superintendent  
of the Borough Isolation Hospital :*

WALTER F. CORFIELD, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.  
(On Service with H.M. Forces.)

*Acting Medical Officer of Health :*

ED. CHICHESTER, M.B. (Lond.)

*Acting Medical Superintendent, Borough Isolation Hospital :*

A. NOLAN FELL, M.D.

*Matron, Borough Isolation Hospital :*

MISS K. BRAIDWOOD.

*Sanitary Inspector :*

T. WELLS, Cert. Roy. Sanit. Inst., Cert. Meat Inspector.

*Laboratory Assistant and Clerk :*

A. FISHER, Cert. Roy. Sanit. Inst.

*Assistant Sanitary Inspector :*

C. S. HUMPHREYS.

*Disinfecto r :*

G. T. HEWES (on service with H.M. Forces.)

B. COLLINGS (temporary).

*Health Visitor :*

MISS SASSE.

*Junior Clerk :*

R. ARNOLD.

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
36 STANWELL STREET,

31st May 1916.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE BOROUGH OF COLCHESTER.

GENTLEMEN,

As Acting Medical Officer of Health I am presenting the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of Colchester. As you are aware Dr. Corfield entered the army in June, 1915, and was very shortly afterwards sent on active service to the Gallipoli Peninsular. During his absence Dr. Nolan Fell (who has charge of the Infectious Diseases Hospital) and myself are doing our best to carry on the work of the Public Health Department.

In accordance with instructions from the Local Government Board the present report has been condensed as far as possible.

I should like first of all to draw attention to the question as to what the actual population of Colchester was during 1915. The calculation of the population of a town, though based on the last census, is always, except in the actual census year, both difficult and uncertain. Before he left Dr. Corfield worked out the population figures for the borough in the same way as in previous years, and estimated the total population at 46,700.—or without the military at 41,200. On account of the war there have been such vast changes in the distribution of the people throughout the country generally, that the Registrar General issued a circular on the subject. In this circular the changes in the population, which have taken place since the war began were commented on, and the Registrar General himself supplied a figure, based on the registration cards which he considered the best way of arriving at the actual civilian population. This figure was 38,699. There is such a large difference between these two estimated populations, that I wrote to the Registrar General on the subject. I find that for certain tables such as death rates etc, the Registrar General's figure must be employed, his estimates being used throughout England. I have therefore used it for all my statistics. The real population is so doubtful however, that these statistics must necessarily be unreliable, and in my opinion will continue to be so, till after another census. I

should add that the census figure for 1911, was for civilians alone 39,365, and with the military population 43,452. During 1915 the average daily strength of the troops was 12,435. Allowing say 2,000 for women and children, the military population comes to 14,435, but of course these numbers varied daily, often greatly.

Previously Dr. Corfield allowed 1,000 for women and children, when there were only about 4,000 troops quartered here, so that 2,000 when the number has risen to 12,435, does not seem excessive.

In the present report therefore statistics are based on the Registrar General's figure for civilians—Viz 38,699 plus, when necessary, the military total of 12,435 viz 51,134. Anyone who particularly wished to see the result, if Dr. Corfield's estimate had been used, could do so by substituting 41,200, as the civilian population, this plus the military, works out at 53,635.

I am pleased to be able to state, as Dr. Corfield was, in his last report, that in the year under review, the conduct of the large number of troops quartered in Colchester has been remarkably good.

The increase in the number of beds and cases at the Infectious Hospital, has thrown a great deal of extra work on the staff of that institution, but in spite of this Miss Braidwood, the Matron, with the help of her senior nurses has kept the hospital in its usual high state of efficiency.

I should like to put on record my thanks for the cordial and efficient help rendered to me by all members of the Sanitary Department, and more especially by Mr. Wells, and Mr. Fisher, who have both had to work at high pressure, and with whom I come most in contact.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ED. CHICHESTER, M.B., Lond., M.R.C.S., & L.R.C.P.,

*Acting Medical Officer of Health.*



# **The Public Health.**

# REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

**For the Year 1915.**

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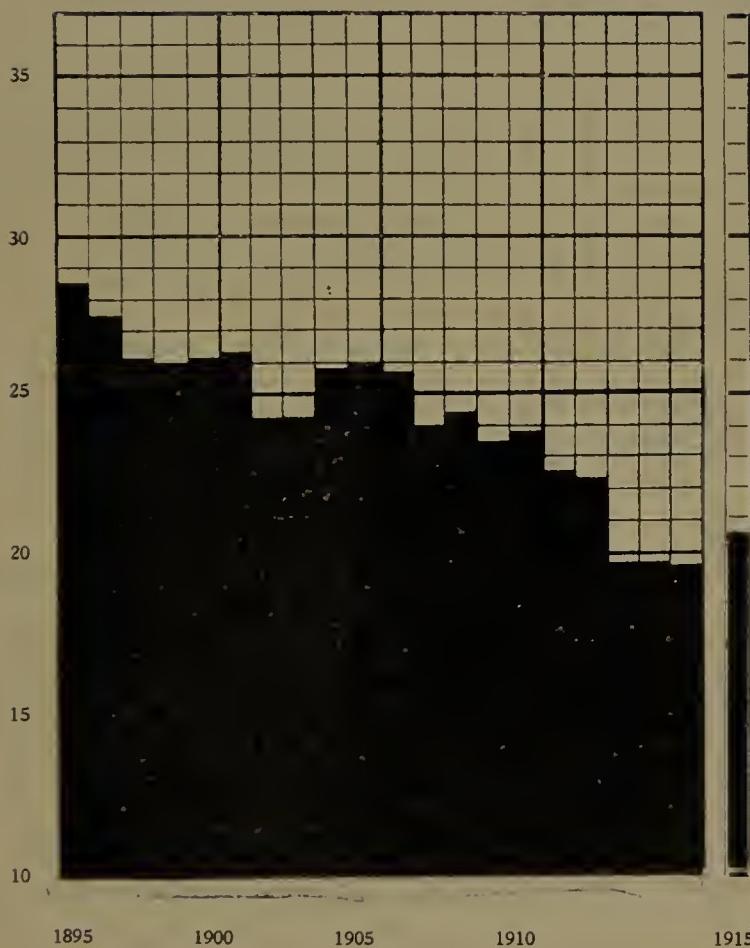
### VITAL STATISTICS,

The Table below gives birth and death rates, etc., for Colchester.

Population	...	...	...	...	38,699
Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	20·3
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	14·7
Infantile Death Rate	...	...	...	...	85·0
Zymotic Death Rate	...	...	...	...	0·46
Respiratory Diseases Death Rate	...	...	...	...	2·5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate	...	...	...	...	1·0
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate	...	...	...	...	0·36
Cancer Death Rate	...	...	...	...	1·1

The principal Zymotic Diseases with the number of deaths each caused during the year are.—Small Pox (0), Measles (8), Whooping Cough (8), Scarlet Fever (0), Diphtheria (2), Typhoid Fever (0), and Infantile Diarrhoea (0).

## CHART A.



Birth Rates for Years 1895—1915.

**POPULATION OF SEVERALLS ASYLUM AND THE  
ROYAL EASTERN COUNTIES' INSTITUTION.**

	Colchester Residents.		Not Colchester Residents.	
	Severalls Asylum.	R.E.C.I.	Severalls Asylum.	R.E.C.I.
Number of Inmates on Jan. 1st, 1915 ...	96	18	1180	338
,, , Deaths or Re- movals during 1915 ...	22	2	250	44
,, , Admissions dur- ing 1915 ...	26	4	414	94
Number of Inmates on Dec. 31st, 1915 ...	100	20	1344	388

The Staff of the Asylum numbers 266 persons.

The above figures are not included in the Registrar General's estimate of the civilian population.

## BIRTHS.

The following table gives the actual number of births registered during the year, in the different Wards.

	North.	South.	East	West.	Inward Transfer.	Outward Transfer.	Nett Total.
Males ...	61	131	116	103	—	3	408
Females ...	61	122	112	84	2	1	380
Totals ...	122	253	228	187	2	4	788

There were 42 illegitimate births, equal to 5·5 per cent of the total births, an increase of 0·7 above the same percentage for 1914.

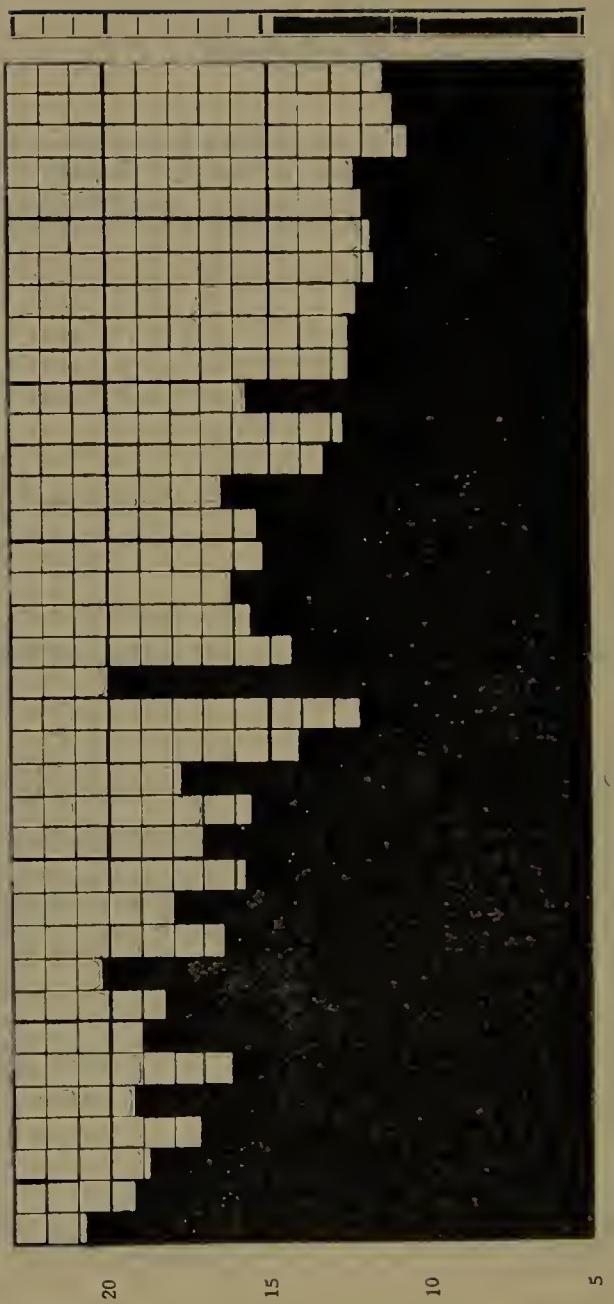
## DEATHS.

67 Soldiers and 2 sailors died in Colchester during the year, the vast majority occurring in hospitals. These figures are not included in Table III, as requested by the Local Government Board.

The total number of deaths in the Borough during the year was 864, compared with 667 during 1914. Of these deaths 301 were deaths of non-residents, (including 62 soldiers and 2 sailors). Also 5 soldiers, who had no residence in England or Wales, died in Colchester, and consequently their deaths could not be transferred.

Similarly the deaths of 17 residents (including 6 soldiers) who died away from Colchester must be added, leaving a nett total of 580 deaths of persons who were, or had become, Colchester residents, compared with 527 in 1914.

CHART B.



Colchester Death-Rates for Years 1878—1915.

Of the 69 deaths of soldiers and sailors, the following is a summary of the causes of death:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	1
Phthisis	...	...	3
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	13	
Heart Diseases	...	...	3
Pneumonia	...	...	8
Appendicitis	..	...	2
Nephritis	...	...	1
Violence	...	...	25
Suicide	...	...	2
Other Causes	...	...	11
			—
Total		69	—

The causes of death of the 6 soldiers who were registered in other districts, but transferred to Colchester, were as follows:—

Influenza	...	...	1
Violence	...	...	2
Other Causes	...	...	3
			—
Total		6	—

The number of deaths in Institutions was as follows:—

#### Total Deaths in Public Institutions in Colchester.

Essex County Hospital	...	...	76
Union Infirmary	...	...	87
Royal Eastern Counties Institution	...	...	33
Borough Isolation Hospital	...	...	17
Essex and Colchester Asylum	...	...	160
			—
		373	—

Fourteen persons died and were buried with no medical certificate of the cause of death (see table III.)

These deaths were distributed as follows :—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	4
Under 5 years	...	...	...	2
Over 5 and under 45	...	...	...	1
45 and over	...	...	...	7
			Total	14

**Table shewing Deaths from certain Infectious Diseases.**

	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
Enteric Fever	...	—	1	4	3
Scarlet Fever	...	2	—	—	2
Diphtheria	...	3	3	5	6
Measles ...	...	9	5	—	18
Whooping Cough	...	5	1	6	—
Tuberculosis	...	39	55	52	50
Influenza ...	...	7	2	3	8

Attention should again be drawn to the fact that besides their direct death incidence, Measles and Whooping Cough have probably been responsible for other deaths indirectly, viz.:—Bronchitis or Pneumonia, etc.

Towards the end of the year the L. G. B. issued regulations for the notification of Measles and German Measles, and such notification came into force on Jan. 1st, 1916. The Board hoped that it would be possible to treat some of the severer cases of Measles in the Infectious Diseases Hospital. Such a course is obviously eminently desirable in itself.

## MORTALITY IN CHILD BIRTH AND INFANCY.

There was one notification of Puerperal Fever, and one death during the year.

There were 3 deaths due to other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition.

**The following Table shows the notifications of and deaths from Puerperal Fever for the last six years.**

The improvement in the last four years is noteworthy and gratifying.

	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
Notifications of Puerperal Fever ...	4	6	—	2	1	1
Deaths from Puerperal Fever ...	2	3	1	1	—	1

Table IV. at the end of the Report shows the causes of Infantile deaths.

**The following Table shows the number of deaths, under one year of age, from Debility and Premature Birth during the last six years.**

	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
Deaths from Debility, etc. ...	18	17	6	6	2	11
Deaths from Premature Birth ...	23	15	14	13	22	7

The Notification of Births Act, it should be remembered, came into force during 1911.

There were 67 deaths of infants under one year during 1915, compared with 73 in 1914. The number of births however having dropped by 94, the actual death rate per 1000 births works out at 85·0, compared with 82·7 in 1914, an increase of 2·3. This increase is due to a considerable number of different causes (*vide Table IV.*) It is noticeable however that Diarrhoea and Enteritis were not responsible for a single death, although they caused 14 deaths during 1914.

There were 2 deaths of Illegitimate Infants as against 11 in the previous year. As there were 42 illegitimate children born during the year, the death rate among these was 4·7 per cent. In 1914 it was 25·0 per cent. Of 746 legitimate children born, 65 died, giving a death rate of 8·7 per cent.

## WORK OF THE HEALTH VISITOR.

The work of the Health Visitor has been continued as in previous years. The usual Tables giving the results of the Health Visitor's visits are given below.

### 469 First Visits.

Breast Fed	...	...	424	Patent Food	...	...	0
Cows Milk and water	...		3	Boat Bottles used	...		3
Condensed Milk	...	...	0	Long tube Bottles	...		0

In 42 cases a doctor was in attendance, so no enquiries were made.

### 632 Second Visits.

Breast Fed	...	...	538	Left the Town	...	...	35
Cows Milk and water	...		34	Boat Bottles used	...		37
Condensed Milk	...		3	Long tube Bottles	...		0
Patent Food	...	...	7				

In 15 cases a doctor was in attendance, so no enquiries were made.

### 602 Third Visits.

Breast Fed	...	...	478	Left the town	...	...	43
Cows Milk and water	...		36	Boat Bottles used	...		68
Condensed Milk	...		21	Long tube Bottles	...		2
Patent Food	...	...	13				

In 11 cases a doctor was in attendance, so no enquiries were made.

134 extra visits were paid, as the mother was out at the time of a routine visit.

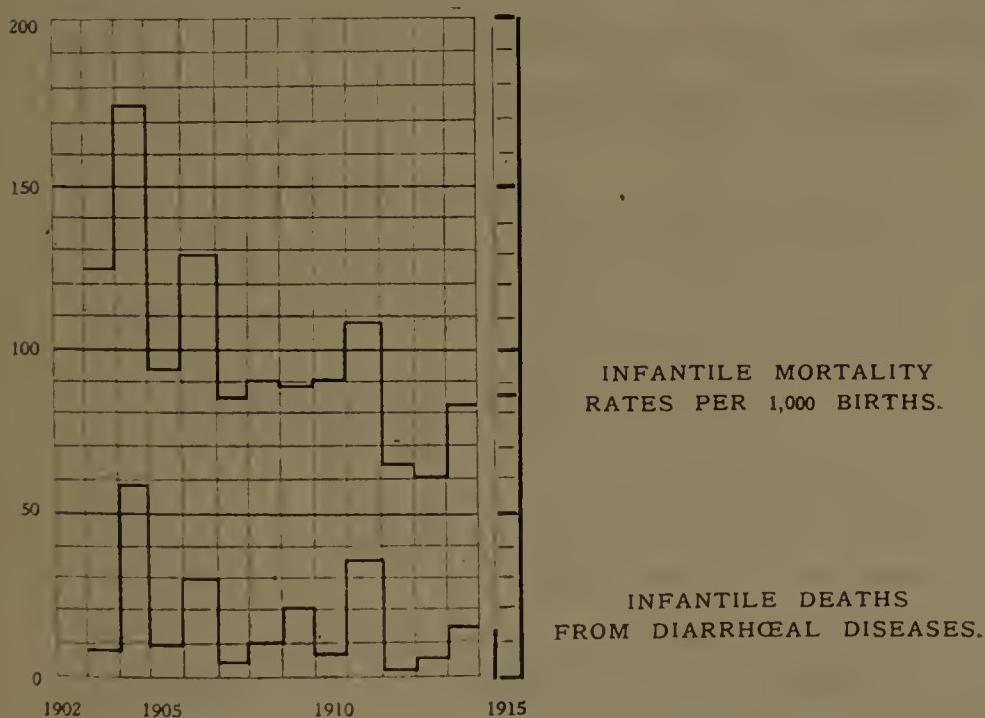
In 13 cases of removal, the new address was found. 11 visits were paid to houses in which a still-birth had been notified.

Under the Ophthalmia Neonatorum Regulations, 57 visits were made by the Health Visitor.

## **PREVENTION OF INFANTILE DIARRHŒA.**

Chart D shows the Infantile Mortality Rates and Infantile Diarrhoeal Deaths, compared graphically since 1903.

**CHART D.**



Special visits were paid during the summer, as in previous years, for the purpose of leaving a "Diarrhoea" leaflet, and at the same time enquiries were made as to how the baby was being fed.

The following table shows the result of 335 such enquiries made about Infants from 3 to 12 months old.

	3-6 mths.	6-9 mths.	9-12 mths.
Breast Fed	...	71	110
Cow's Milk	...	10	11
Condensed Milk	...	2	3
Patent Food	...	0	3
Boat Bottles used	...	12	16
Long Tube Bottles used	0	0	0
Spoons used	...	0	1

In 2 cases a doctor was in attendance and no enquiries were made, and in 39 cases the parents had left the town.

### Notifications under the Notifications of Births' Act and Summary of Health Visitor's Work under this Act.

Number of children born alive and notified in accordance with the Act	...	...	735
Number of children born alive and not notified in accordance with the Act	...	...	43
Number of still-births notified	...	...	27
,, routine visits paid by Health Visitor			2038
,, extra                         ,,             ,,     ...			185
,, removals traced to new addresses	...		16
,, special visits to ailing infants	...		56
Mothers of still-born infants visited	...		11
Total number of visits paid by Health Visitor in connection with Infant Welfare	...		2306

## INQUESTS.

The following details relate to the 35 Inquests that have been held in the Borough during the year.

Cause of Death.		Males.	Females.	Total.
Manslaughter	...	1	—	1
Suicide	...	3	1	4
Accident or Misadventure	...	19	4	23
Natural Causes	...	6	—	6
Open Verdicts :—				
Death from Drowning	..	1	—	1
Totals	...	30	5	35

The ages of the above persons about whose death enquiry was held was as follows:—

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 year...	...	1	—	1
1 year and under 5 years...	...	—	1	1
5 years and under 15 years	...	3	—	3
15 years and under 25 years	...	5	—	5
25 years and under 45 years	...	11	2	13
45 years and under 65 years	...	5	2	7
65 years and over	...	5	—	5
Totals	...	30	5	35

In 19 of the above cases the deceased was not a Colchester Resident, this figure including 12 soldiers and 1 sailor.

A large number of cases were reported to the Coroner, who, after preliminary enquiry, did not consider an inquest necessary.

### **POOR LAW AND HOSPITAL RELIEF.**

The Guardians of the Poor expended the sum of £5,045 19s 9½d. upon In-maintenance for the year ended Michaelmas, 1915. This is an increase of £253 18s. 8¾d. above the amount spent in the previous year.

Out-Relief cost £2,524 5s. 10d. for the same period, this being £116 15s. 5½d., less than the figure for the previous year.

### **ESSEX COUNTY HOSPITAL, 1915.**

Mr. Buck, Secretary to the Essex County Hospital, has kindly supplied me with the following information concerning that Institution.

				Increase or Decrease.
Number of Beds available throughout the year	...	...	...	234 + 134
Average number of patients resident daily	...	...	...	118 + 33
Number of new out-patients		...	1964	— 86
Total number of out-patients attendances	...	...	6289	— 37

The increased number of beds is due to two large huts that were put up for the accommodation of wounded soldiers.

### **WATER SUPPLY.**

As in previous years, monthly analyses (with the exception of August) have been made of the water from the Lexden and Sheepen Springs, with entirely satisfactory results. The Artesian Well water has also been examined, also with satisfactory results.

The Waterworks Superintendent, Mr. Charles E. Bland, has kindly supplied the following details concerning the work of his department.

### **Replacement of Mains.**

A length of old 4in. main was cut out of the London Road from opposite Sussex Road to Fitzwalter Road, a total distance of 435 yards, and replaced by a 6in. which considerably augments the supply in that district.

An old 4in. main bringing the Clark's Meadow Springs to a reservoir at the Works, Balkerne Hill, was replaced by a 5in. which now intercepts practically all the water rising from these springs, and enables the Council to utilise the Sheepen Spring in connection with the Town supply : this spring had been previously used with Clark's Meadow and other springs for supplying the G. E. Railway Company's North Station. A further length of very old 3in. main has also been replaced by 4in. from No. 35 Cronch Street to No. 65.

These replacements represent a length of 959 yards.

The total length of the mains in the Borough is about  $51\frac{3}{4}$  miles.

### **Houses Supplied.**

In the Borough there are 9410 houses receiving a supply of water from the Council's Mains, exclusive of premises used for trade and business purposes, stables etc., and the Garrison.

### **Number of Persons Supplied.**

Taking an average of 4·8 people per house, (Government census return) and allowing for empty houses an estimated civilian population of 45,168 receive a supply of water from the Council's Mains.

To this figure must be added 2000 as the estimated number of soldiers wives and children residing in the Borough, making a total say of—47,168.

The average daily strength of the military population was 12,479 making an aggregate total of 58,647 using the water of the Council.

### Meters.

There are 234 Meters in use in the Borough for trade and business purposes, etc.

### Waste Detection.

Our Inspectors in visiting premises for the purpose of localising waste, discovered 5872 defective service pipes, leaky or defective fittings. Of these 5053 were repaired by our staff free of charge and the remainder (819) were remedied by the owners of the properties after notices had been served upon them.

The increase, which this year amounts to nearly 700 more than any previous year, is to a large extent due to the continuous working of the waste detecting meters, and the handbills issued by the Council to the community warning them of the danger of wasting or misusing water at the present time.

### Hydrants.

There are 467 hydrants in the Borough for use for fire extinguishment, road watering, etc. All the hydrants are periodically inspected, overhauled and replaced as found necessary, every means being taken to keep them in proper working order.

### Quantity of Water Pumped.

The total quantity of water pumped during the year was 445,181,000 gallons, viz.,

	Gallons.
Pumped into the water Tank, Balkerie	
Hill ... ... ... ... ...	395,195,000
Surface spring water supplied by	
separate mains and reservoirs to the	
G. E. Railway Company's North	
Station ... ... ... ...	49,986,000

Owing to the large demands made upon the public supply for military purposes the Committee were compelled to give notice to consumers not to use water for gardens, and the use of the Military Bathing Pond was also discontinued.

At one time during last summer the population, owing to the increase in the number of troops, was more than doubled.

This was exclusive of a large number of horses.

In April last the standing water level in the well fell 6ft. 9in.

These matters caused the Committee great anxiety for a period, but the exercise of every care and precaution combined with the assistance of the consumers to prevent waste and undue consumption of water, enabled the Committee to maintain the constant supply.

### **The Average Consumption per head per day.**

For all purposes including road watering and making, fire extinguishment, sewer flushing, trade and business supplies (but excluding the G. E. Railway Company's spring water supply)—was 18·4 gallons.

### **Lexden Water.**

The yield of the "Lexden" and "Sheepen" springs continues to be quite satisfactory, as also the quality of the water. Samples have been subjected to a monthly bacteriological analysis by the Acting Medical Officer of Health.

## **DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SCAVENGING.**

The emptying of dustbins and general scavenging has been carried on by the Borough Council's own employees, except upon War Department land, where it is carried out by contractors.

### Borough Surveyor's Report.

Mr. H. Collins has kindly supplied the following information upon the drainage and sewerage work of his department during the year :—

#### Drainage Works.

Glazed stoneware sewer pipes have been laid as follows:—

#### Military Works—Reed Hall Camp, Stanway Camp and Abbey Field Horse Shelters.

No.

156-	9 inch
2188-	6 inch
6196-	4 inch

56 manholes and 2 lampholes have been constructed.

There has been no extension of the public sewers of the Borongh during the year.

The total length of sewers is 62 miles, 5 furlongs, 134 yds.

#### Buildings and Drains.

71 plans have been submitted to the Council, representing 9 dwelling-houses, 2 public houses, 5 workshops, 24 alterations and additions to buildings, and 30 other buildings.

4 dwelling-houses and 47 other buildings have been erected.

Buildings and drains have necessitated 752 inspections.

45 houses, old and new, have been provided with new drains and sanitary fittings.

All new drains have been subjected to a water test before being passed for use.

### **Removal of Refuse and Cleansing of Streets.**

The Council have caused to be removed :—

11,190	cart loads of house refuse
761	„ trade refuse.
84	„ garden refuse.
530	„ sewage from deadwells.
1328	„ slops from street gullies.
8566	„ road scrapings and sweepings, and
19374	truck loads of horse droppings, and other refuse from streets and roads.

The refuse from the Camp and Barracks, and other War Department properties has been removed by Messrs Collier & Co., under Contract with the Council.

From Reed Hall new Camp the refuse has been removed daily by Corporation carts.

In Lexden District the work of collection and disposal of refuse has been carried out by the Council direct, the local farmer, who previously collected the refuse, by arrangement, having been obliged to give up the work on account of shortage of labour and horses.

### **Watering Streets and Roads.**

3,309,920 gallons of water have been used for street and road watering, and road making.

### **Treatment of Roads for the Prevention of Dust.**

24,840 gallons of crude tar, and 14,154 gallons of refined tar have been used on the principal streets of the Borough for the prevention of dust.

### **Sewage Outfall Works.**

533,984,567 gallons of sewage have been pumped into the tanks at these Works, equal to an average daily flow of 1,462,972 gallons. After precipitation a residue has been left of 33,265 tons, approx., of semi-solid sewage, which has been treated with lime and reduced by pressing to 6,653 tons approx. of portable manure, or sludge. This sludge is disposed of to farmers and others in the District.

### **REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.**

I have the honour of presenting to you my Twentieth Annual Report.

#### **Complaints as to Nuisances.**

The number of complaints received during the year was 426. As reported in previous years a prompt investigation is made into the cause of such complaints, and the necessary steps are taken to remedy any existing nuisances calling for abatement.

#### **Drainage Work and Supervision.**

The systematic inspection of drainage works is carried out in a manner similar to previous years, and care is taken to see that water tight joints are made to all drains, both reconstructed and repaired.

#### **Infectious Diseases and Disinfections.**

I have visited nearly all the cases which have been notified to the Acting Medical Officer of Health. The majority of the cases were removed to your Infectious Diseases Hospital at Mile End. The number of articles disinfected by steam after the removal, or convalescence of the patient was 2,512.

#### **House to House Inspection.**

#### **The Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.**

The systematic inspection of premises is carried out as in previous years. This work is chiefly undertaken by my assistant. Any houses

reported to me as being in a bad condition, from a structural point of view, were specially inspected by me, and if necessary reported to the Borough and Port Health Committee.

In addition to houses inspected under the above Regulations, many houses were inspected under the Factory and Workshop Acts, where home work is completed on the premises. Special inspection is made of houses where cases of infectious diseases occur, and any other premises which may be within the same curtilage.

A list of houses which were without any ashpit accommodation, or had the old fixed ashpits, was supplied to me by the Borough Surveyor. These houses have also been inspected, and I am pleased to report the number of old fixed ashpits is decreasing every year. I look upon fixed ashpits as being closely akin to cesspools. When in close proximity to houses they are a danger to health, for putrid refuse pollutes the air, encourages the breeding of flies, which act as vehicles for the transmission of diseases, such as Typhoid Fever, Diarrhoea, Cholera, Diphtheria, and such ashpits should be abolished. The number of new sanitary dustbins which have been supplied to houses by the owners, was considerably less than the previous year. This is partly due to the large amount of time devoted to the inspection of billets. In the ordinary routine work 2054 houses were inspected during the year.

#### **Registered Common Lodging Houses.**

There are now only two of these in the Borough, one having been discontinued during the year. They are kept clean and their general condition is satisfactory.

#### **Tents, Sheds, Vans and Similar Structures.**

I have inspected a fairly large number of vans which periodically visit the Borough. All those which I inspected were in a fairly clean condition. A severe case of Diphtheria which occurred in one van was speedily removed to your Infectious Diseases Hospital.

### Offensive Trades.

The premises where these trades are carried on have all been visited as in previous years. With regard to fried fish shops no application has been made for any premises to be registered during the year. Two of the registered premises are now no longer used for the purpose of frying fish. No new licence was granted during the year.

### Slaughter Houses.

The number of licensed and registered slaughter houses in the Borough is 19, viz., registered 10, licensed 9: one of the latter has been discontinued.

### Food Inspection.

The number of visits made to slaughter houses during the year was 390. I also periodically visited butchers' shops, fried fish shops, ice cream shops, etc. The subjoined table gives the amount of food condemned as unfit for human consumption. This was voluntarily surrendered and subsequently destroyed.

22 Sheep's Plucks
41 Sheep's Livers
2 Pig's Plucks
7 Stone of Shrimps
1 Box of Haddock
2 Cwt. of Crabs
9 Cwt. of Frozen Mutton

### Public Health (Regulations as to Food) Act, 1907.

Periodical inspections of food entering by way of the Port have been made under the above regulations. Such food as tinned salmon, lard, cheese, oranges, wheat, barley, lemons, onions, sugar were examined, but no seizures were made.

### Troops.

In the early part of the year many thousands of men were billeted in the Borough. Inspection of billets continued throughout the year until the latter part of November.

Many huts have been erected in Colchester and the surrounding districts, which will accommodate many thousands of men and thus decrease the number of billets in the homes of the people. This inspection cannot but have had a beneficial result, from a public health point of view, as cases of overcrowding, choked drains, infectious diseases, etc., were discovered and reported upon, and notices were served dealing with these matters. Several verminous cases were also discovered, and in most instances the premises and clothing were disinfected. The above billet inspection was carried out by my assistant.

Several large empty houses and schools in the Borongh were also required by the military authorities, for the purpose of billeting soldiers, and where large numbers of men were congregated together it was necessary to measure up some of the rooms so as to ascertain the amount of cubic space. The War Office regulation of 40 square feet per man was always enforced.

I also examined the drainage of these large premises, and in some instances they were tested and reports were made as to the fitness of such premises for the purpose of billeting soldiers. Suggestions were made for increasing the sanitary conveniences, ventilation, and ablution arrangements. These premises were systematically inspected by myself and advice was given as to cleanliness, etc. Special attention was directed to the latrines, wash houses, cook houses, and refuse removal, etc., and any irregularities were immediately notified to the A. D. M. S. The total number of inspections made while carrying out the above duties was 6,485.

Statement A			Public Health Acts.	Factory & Workshops Acts.
Complaints received	...	...	423	3
Visits made to Slaughter Houses	...	...	390	0
Visits made to Bakehouses	...	...	3	101
Visits made to Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	111	0
Visits made to Cowsheds	...	...	36	0
Workshops Inspected	...	...	35	104
Workshops Cleansed	...	...	0	11
<b>Housing.</b>				
Houses Cleansed	...	...	21	7
Houses Disinfected	...	...	334	0
Overcrowding Abated	...	...	51	1
Houses placed in Habitable Repair...	...	...	1	0
Defective Roofs Repaired	...	...	35	5
Rain Water Pipes and Guttering Repaired	...	...	20	0
<b>Drainage and Sewerage.</b>				
Privies and Water Closets Repaired	...	...	14	2
New Water Closets Built	...	...	3	0
Water Supply for Closets Provided...	...	...	11	0
Defective Water Fittings for Water Closets Re-				
paired	...	...	110	8
Filthy Closets Cleansed...	...	...	4	0
Water Closets Unstopped	...	...	75	6

Statement A		Public Health Acts.	Factory & Workshops Acts.
Water Closets, New Pans Fixed	...	19	3
Water Closets, New Seats and Risers Fixed	...	5	0
Water Closets, New Floors Laid	...	7	0
Drains Unstopped	...	97	3
Drains Repaired	...	23	0
Old Drains Abolished	...	3	0
New Drains Laid	...	8	0
Disconnection Syphons Fixed	...	3	0
Disconnection Chambers Built	...	3	0
Fresh Air Inlet Pipes Fixed	...	3	0
Foul Air Exit Pipes Fixed	...	4	0
Bell and other Insanitary Traps Abolished	...	7	0
Trapped Yard Gullies Fixed	...	15	0
Defective and Insufficiently Ventilated Soil Pipes		2	0
Sink and other Wastes Disconnected from Drains		1	0
Bath and Lavatory	...	2	0

### Nuisances.

Ashpits Abolished	...	...	...	23	0
Ashbins Provided	...	...	...	282	10
Manure and Offensive Matter Removed	...	...	...	123	0
Defects Reported to Borough Surveyor's Department	...	...	...	104	0

Statement A		Public Health Acts.	Factory & Workshops Acts.
Animals Improperly kept or Removed	...	64	0
Nuisances Detected or Reported	...	903	35
Nuisances Abated	...	861	34
Informal Notices Served	...	903	36
Statutory Notices Served	...	86	0
Other Blemishes Abated	...	67	6
<b>Other Matters.</b>			
Yards Paved	...	7	0
Seizures or Surrenders of Unsound Food	...	20	0
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	1	0
Wells Sunk, Cleansed or Repaired	...	1	0
Wells Closed	...	1	0
Water Supply Provided for Domestic Purposes...	5	0	
Leaky Taps Repaired where Drawing from			
Public Mains	...	60	1
Ventilation Provided	...	11	0

### **Drain Testing—Statement "B."**

The following table shows the locality of Sewer Gas escapes:—

Into external water closets	...	...	6
,, internal	...	...	1
,, dining rooms and other parts of house...	...	...	1
From Heads and joints of rain water pipes	...	3	
,, defective joints of soil and vent pipes ...	...	6	
,, defective drains	...	5	
,, defective traps	...	2	

### Destruction of Rats.

The man appointed to catch rats has during the year caught 5,547, this is considerably more than in the previous year. He is a part time man and in addition to the catching of rats he devotes one day in each week to the poisoning of rats, and many are exterminated by this method.

### Factory and Workshop Acts.

#### (1) Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Work Places.

Premises.	Number of	
	Inspections.	Written Notices.
Factories, including Factory Laundries ...	31	4
Workshops, including Workshop Laundries	139	21
Work Places, other than Outworkers' Premises included in Part 3 ...	16	5
Total ...	186	30

## (2) Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Work Places.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.	
	Found.	Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness ...	12	11
Want of Ventilation ...	...	...
Overcrowding ...	...	...
Want of Drainage of Floors ...	...	...
Other Nuisances ...	14	11
Sanitary Accommodation	Insufficient Unsuitable or De- fective	...
		2
		1
	Not Separate for Sexes	1

**Offences under the Factory and Work-****shop Acts.**

Illegal Occupation of Underground Bakehouse ...	...	...
Breach of Special Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses (S.S. 97 to 100) ...	12	11
Other Offences, excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 ...	...	...

## (3) Homework.

## Outworkers' Lists, Section 107.

Nature of Work.	Lists received from Employers twice a year.			Lists received from Employers once a year.			Notices sent to occupiers as to keeping or sending list.	Notices sent to contractors re Infectious Diseases.		
	(Outworkers)			Outworkers						
	Lists.	Contractors.	Workmen.	Lists.	Contractors.	Workmen.				
Wearing Apparel, making, etc., Cleaning and Wash- ing	78	...	1623	8	...	18	23	23		
Furniture and Upholstery...	8	...	13	1	...	1	...	...		
Umbrellas, etc.	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...		
Sacks	4	...	17	...	...	...	...	...		
Basket Making	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...		
Total	90	...	1653	11	...	22	23	23		

## (4) Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year.	Number.
Bakehouses	43
Domestic Workshops...	33
Laundries	11
Dressmaking and Millinery	73
Other Workshops	404
Total number of Workshops on Register	564

## (3) Other matters.

	Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—		
Failure to affix abstract of the Factory and Workshop Acts		
(S. 133, 1901) ...	...	...
Action taken in matters referred to H.M.		
Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts	Notified by H.M. Inspector.	2
(S. 5, 1901)		
Other ...	...	...
Underground Bakehouse (S. 101) in use at the end of the year		
1		

The total number of workshops on the Register is 564. The premises to which particular attention is given are :—Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Bakehouses, and those used by dressmakers, milliners, tailoresses, shirtmakers, upholsterers, basket making, etc., The number of lists received was 101, giving the number of persons employed (1.) within the Borough, 1623, (2.) outside the Borough, 1224.

I am pleased to report that in no case was it necessary to institute legal proceedings in order to procure the abatement of a nuisance, or to enforce any other matters mentioned in this report.

In conclusion, I beg to thank the Chairman and members of the Borough and Port Health Committee for the continual support that they have given me in the carrying out of the varied duties connected with the Public Health Department.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS WELLS,

*Inspector of Nuisances.*

**LOCAL ACTS, GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS, AND BYE-LAWS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT OF PUBLIC HEALTH IMPORTANCE.**

No alterations in connection with these have been made during the year.

**FOOD SUPPLY.**

**Sale of Food and Drugs Act.**

The following table gives the results of the Analyses carried out under the above Acts during the year :—

Samples.	No. of Samples.	Adulterated.	Nature of Adulteration.
New Milk	... 53	15	Nine fat abstraction:— 6·6%, 8·0%, 14·0%, 26·0%, 16·0%, 9·0%, 23·0%, 23·0%, 30·0% respectively. Four added water: 3·6%, 2·4%, 17·0%, 3·0% respectively. Two fat abstraction and added water:— 8·0% fat abs. and 1·0% added water, and 7·0% fat abs. and 11 0% added water respectively.
Butter	... 25		
Flour	... 4		
Coffee	... 3		
White Pepper	... 6		
Condensed Milk	... 1		
Oatmeal	... 1		
Malt Vinegar	... 2		
Rice	... 1		
Lard...	... 2		

Samples.	No. of Samples.	Adulterated.	Nature of Adulteration.
Bread	...	1	
Margarine	...	1	
Gin	...	1	
Whiskey	...	1	
Cocoa	...	1	
Cheese	...	1	
Cream	...	1	
Preserved Cream	...	1	
Ale	...	1	
Brandy	..	1	
Drugs	...	7	
	115	15	

The Drugs consisted of three samples of Prescriptions, and one each of Liquorice Powder, Oil of Eucalyptus, Milk of Sulphur, and Black Draught.

Fifteen samples were found to be not genuine, and in five instances prosecutions were instituted, with the results stated below :—

1. New Milk. 26·0% fat deficient. Fined 10/-.
2. New Milk. 6·6% fat deficient. Dismissed on payment of costs, (£1 16s. 0d.)
3. New Milk. 8·0% fat deficient and 1·0% added water.  
Fined £20 and costs. (£1 1s. 6d.)
4. New Milk. 7·0% fat deficient and 11·0% added water.  
Dismissed on payment of costs. (5/-)
5. New Milk. 17·0% added water. Fined 10/-

In each of the other instances, the vendors were warned by the Watch Committee.

Four "appeals to the cow" were made. In two cases the sample was genuine, and in the other two, one was found to be 9·0% deficient in fat, and the other 23·0% deficient in fat.

Two samples taken in "course of delivery" were found to be not genuine, one being 16·0% deficient in fat, and the other contained 3·0% of extraneous water.

### **Public Health (Milk and Cream) Regulations, 1912.**

#### **Report for the year ended 1915.**

##### **1. Milk and Cream not sold as Preserved Cream.**

	Number of Samples examined for the presence of a preservative.	Number in which a preservative was reported to be present.
Milk, New ...	53	...
Cream ...	1	...

##### **2. Cream sold as Preserved Cream.**

(a). Instances in which Samples have been submitted for Analysis to ascertain if the statements on the label as to preservatives were correct.

(I.) Correct statements made	...	1
(II.) Statements incorrect ...	...	—

Total 1

(b) Determination made of milk-fat in cream sold as Preserved Cream.

(I.) Above 35 per cent	...	...	1
(II.) Below 35 per cent	...	...	...
Total 1			—

(c). No instances where (apart from Analysis) the requirements as to labelling or declaration of preserved cream in Article V. (1) and the proviso (2) of the Regulations have not been observed, have occurred.

### 3. Thickening Substances.

No evidence of their addition to Cream or to Preserved Cream has been found.

## HOUSING.

During 1915, only 4 new houses were built, viz :—

North Ward	...	...	...	0
South ,,	...	...	...	0
East ,,	...	...	...	1
West ,,	...	...	...	3
Total 4				—

## Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.

The two following tables give the number of houses that have been inspected for structural or sanitary defects since 1906, and the defects that were discovered during 1915.

1906	...	...	...	931
1907	...	...	...	689
1908	...	...	...	548
1909	...	...	...	653
1910	...	...	...	742
1911	...	...	...	522
1912	...	...	...	583
1913	...	...	...	853
1914	...	...	...	922
1915	...	...	...	1270

Total in 10 years, 7713

Name of Street.	Number of Houses Inspected.																		
	Premises in Dirty Condition.			Defective Drains.			Defective Water Closets.			Number of Water Closets.									
													Number of Outside W.C.'s not supplied with Water.	Premises Damp & Dilapidated.	Overcrowding.	Animals Improperly Kept.	Other Nuisances.	Separate Larders.	Premises without Covered Ashbins
Brook Street ..	66	2	3	5	16	..	60	47	7	..	..	..	31	5	13				
Artillery Street South ..	36	..	3	3	1	..	36	32	2	..	..	..	13	2	..				
Artillery Street North ..	60	..	..	1	2	1	58	42	4	..	1	..	8	7	3				
Port Lane ..	35	..	..	..	1	..	35	24	1	..	..	..	2	1	4				
New Park Street ..	63	3	..	..	4	..	63	34	1	1	..	..	2	..	4				
Standard Road ..	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..				
St. Leonard's Road ..	24	..	..	..	..	..	24	9	2	..	..	..	2	1	1				
Barrack Street ..	98	..	..	..	6	2	99	78	2	..	..	..	10	14	6				
Back Lane, Hythe ..	47	1	1	..	3	2	43	39	..	..	..	..	7	3	4				
Lucas Road ..	47	..	..	1	5	1	47	42	4	..	14	..	8	5	1				
Vineyard Street ..	57	4	1	2	14	1	52	50	3	..	..	..	30	..	3				
Stanwell Road ..	8	..	1	1	2	..	8	8	1	..	..	..	4	..	3				
St. John's Green ..	35	..	..	1	6	..	30	21	1	..	..	..	8	3	2				
South Street ..	67	..	..	..	..	1	67	42	..	..	..	..	2	6	2				
Essex Street ..	30	..	..	..	..	1	30	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	1				
West Street ..	28	..	..	..	..	..	28	6	..	..	..	..	1	1	..				
Burlington Road ..	31	..	..	..	..	1	31	26	..	..	..	..	5	1	..				
Wellington Street ..	26	..	..	..	..	3	26	25	..	..	..	..	6	1	3				
Hospital Lane ..	10	..	..	..	..	..	8	6	..	..	..	..	1	..	1				
Crowhurst Road ..	50	..	1	..	2	2	50	..	..	..	..	..	5	6	4				
Maidenburgh Street ..	62	1	..	..	6	1	59	40	4	1	..	21	4	7					
St. Helen's Lane ..	10	..	..	..	..	..	7	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..				
George Street ..	12	..	..	..	..	1	11	5	..	..	..	..	3	..	2				
William's Walk ..	11	..	..	..	..	1	11	8	2	..	..	..	3	..	2				
West Stockwell Street ..	71	3	..	1	4	..	66	42	2	..	..	..	25	3	11				
Short Cut Road ..	22	..	..	..	5	..	22	22	4	..	4	10	..	1	1				
Nunn's Road ..	17	..	..	..	2	..	17	16	..	..	..	..	1	1	..				
Sheepen Road ..	56	..	..	1	8	..	51	5	7	..	6	27	..	6					
Stockwell ..	5	..	..	..	1	1	4	4	..	..	..	3	..	..	..				
East Stockwell Street ..	28	..	..	..	..	..	28	17	2	..	..	..	5	3	5				
North Gate Street ..	80	..	1	..	6	1	77	47	1	..	3	15	3	3					
Bromley Road ..	25	1	..	..	2	..	12	9	2	..	..	10	1	5					
Cherry Row ..	9	..	..	..	..	..	8	7	..	..	..	..	1	..	6				
Magdalen Street (in part)	40	1	..	..	2	..	33	22	3	..	..	10	2	3					
Total ..	..	1270	16	8	16	105	13	1205	817	59	3	27	277	76	106				

The following statement sets out briefly the work that has been done under the various Housing Acts during 1915 :—

### Housing Inspection, 1915.

Number of Houses, 1911	...	...	...	9,218
,, 1915 (approx.)	...	...	...	9,504
Number of Houses Visited and Inspected :—				
1. Owing to Complaint	...	...	...	461
2. Owing to Infectious Disease	...	...	...	380
3. During Routine Work (including 1 and 2)	...	...	...	2,054
Number of Informal Notices served for Sanitary defects	...	...	...	939
,, Statutory Notices	,,	,,	...	86
,, Notices served for Overcrowding	...	...	...	52
,, Notices served for Uncleanliness	...	...	...	28
,, Notices complied with	...	...	...	895

### Housing Inspection under Sec. 17 Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

Number of Dwelling Houses Inspected	...	...	...	1,270
,, Dwelling Houses in which Defects were found	...	...	...	603
,, Dwelling Houses the Defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	603

No Closing or Demolition Orders were made, and no dwelling houses were reported as dangerous buildings during the year.

The Infectious Diseases,  
Tuberculosis,  
and the Work of the  
Borough Laboratories.



## THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### Infectious Diseases Notified, 1906—1915.

Disease.	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
Small Pox .. ..	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever .. ..	37	45	128	82	79	56	28	98	197	382
Diphtheria .. ..	29	18	41	29	32	29	31	52	88	113
Typhoid Fever .. ..	12	8	11	5	2	4	1	8	17	14
Erysipelas .. ..	51	24	22	22	30	45	28	32	36	54
Puerperal Fever .. ..	0	2	1	4	4	6	0	2	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis .. ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis .. ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	27
	129	97	203	142	151	140	100	195	340	591

### Deaths from Infectious Diseases registered in the Borough, 1906—1915.

Disease.	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
Small Pox .. ..	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever .. ..	1	0	1	1	2	2	0	1	2	4
Diphtheria .. ..	3	1	5	2	2	3	4	5	7	3
Typhoid Fever .. ..	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	5	4	1
Erysipelas .. ..	3	1	1	2	3	2	0	1	0	4
Puerperal Fever .. ..	0	4	0	2	2	3	1	1	0	1
Measles .. ..	9	1	9	6	1	7	5	0	18	16
Whooping Cough .. ..	19	10	7	3	12	5	2	6	0	8
Phthisis .. ..	36	45	47	39	49	27	45	40	66	70
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis .. ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	18

### Monthly Notifications of Civilian Cases for 1915.

Month,	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Fever.	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Aente Poliomyelitis.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Other Tuber- cular Diseases.	Total.
January	27	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	3	..	34
February	47	5	..	4	..	2	1	..	5	..	64
March	32	6	..	4	..	2	1	..	8	3	56
April	30	5	2	8	..	..	1	..	1	4	51
May	18	1	..	6	..	1	1	..	6	6	39
June	9	2	2	3	..	..	..	..	5	3	24
July	12	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	4	..	20
August	26	2	2	4	..	..	..	..	4	1	39
September	27	5	1	2	..	..	..	..	6	2	43
October	20	3	2	4	..	..	..	..	2	..	31
November	24	3	1	2	1	..	..	..	4	1	36
December	7	10	1	3	..	1	..	..	3	2	27
Year 1915	279	45	11	44	1	7	4	..	51	22	464

### Monthly Notifications of Military Cases, 1915.

January	..	1	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	5
February	..	7	1	..	..	9	..	..	1	..	18
March	..	6	7	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	14
April	..	31	3	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	36
May	..	26	8	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	37
June	..	6	10	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	17
July	..	13	4	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	19
August	..	7	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	11
September	..	1	1	2	2	..	1	..	..	..	7
October	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
November	..	2	10	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	14
December	..	4	19	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	25
Year 1915	103	68	3	10	..	20	..	..	1	..	205

### Borough Isolation Hospital, Mile End.

During the year, two wards for the military cases, each containing 22 beds, were completed, also the new ward for general infectious diseases, containing 22 beds, and the Tuberculosis Pavilion containing 12 beds.

There are now beds for 150 patients, but in an emergency beds could be provided for 175.

The Administration Block has been enlarged, and there is now accommodation for 20 nurses and 10 servants. Also the Porter's Lodge is still available in the event of an increased staff being required.

### Admissions to the Isolation Hospital, 1915.

Authority.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Cerebro Spinal Fever.	Phthisis	Other Diseases.	Totals.
Colchester Borough	179	43	11	2	..	9	244
,, Idiot Asylum	12	1	..	..	..	..	13
,, Garrison	68	67	3	13	..	9	160
Garrison Outside Borough	6	6	3	4	..	1	20
Essex C.C.	..	..	..	..	26	..	26
Tendring R.D.	8	11	5	..	..	..	24
Lexden and Winstree R.D.	17	12	..	..	..	1	30
Frinton U.D.	2	..	1	..	..	..	3
Walton U.D.	8	..	..	..	..	..	8
Brightlingsea U.D...	3	..	1	..	..	..	4
Wivenhoe U.D.	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Totals ..	304	140	24	19	26	20	533

It will be noticed that there was again a large increase in the number of cases admitted to the hospital. The total in 1914 was 343, the increase in 1915 being therefore 190.

In addition to the cases actually suffering from an infectious disease, seventeen Diphtheria contacts were admitted, all being civilians.

Six of the staff contracted an infectious disease ; three nurses and one maid caught Scarlet Fever, and two nurses, Diphtheria.

Three deaths occurred at the hospital from Diphtheria, four from Scarlet Fever, one from Enteric Fever, one from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, six from Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, one from Meningitis, and one from Cerebral Haemorrhage.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

There was again a large increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year viz. :— 382 against 197 in 1914. Of the 382 cases, 103 were soldiers. 259 of the cases were admitted to the hospital.

At one time the hospital was so full that some of the military cases had to be treated in their own hospital ; also 33 cases occurred and were treated in Severalls Asylum. There was no definite epidemic at any time, but there was a considerable number of cases in practically every month during the year.

The outside districts sent 45 cases of Scarlet Fever into the hospital during the year.

### **Diphtheria.**

In the case of this disease also, there was an increase in the numbers, but more than half were soldiers, viz :— 68 out of a total of 113. Of this total, 111 were admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital. The outside districts sent 29 cases of this disease into the hospital.

### **Enteric (or Typhoid) Fever.**

Fourteen cases of Enteric Fever were notified ; a slight decrease on the number for last year, which was 17. Three of these cases were soldiers, and all were removed to the hospital. The source of infection in at least 8 cases was outside the Borough. Ten cases were received from the outside districts.

### **Small Pox.**

No case of Small Pox was notified during the year.

### Acute Poliomyelitis and Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.

Of the former, no case was notified during the year. Of the latter, however, there were 27 cases, of which 20 were soldiers. Many of the cases were very acute, and 17 died. Fifteen of the cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, most of the others dying before removal was possible.

Disinfection of the houses is carried out in all cases. Besides this Cerebro Spinal fluid or swabs were taken and examined of all cases and contacts; this work being undertaken by Capt. Mackarell. The Borough is greatly indebted to this officer for his very kindly doing this work in the case of the civilians gratuitously.

### Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Four cases of this disease occurred during the year.

### The NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles was much less prevalent; 161 cases being notified from the schools, compared with 406 in 1914.

Towards the end of the year, Regulations were issued by the Local Government Board, calling for the compulsory notification of this disease as from 1st January, 1916.

Ninety-seven cases of Whooping Cough, 112 Chicken Pox, and 33 Mumps were also notified from the schools during the year.

### Incidence of the Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases, in Four Weekly Periods.

Whooping Cough	Measles.	Chicken Pox.	Mumps.
4	2	1	3
4	..	..	1
1	2	5	1
6	15	16	3
5	17	22	6
23	10	29	1
13	14	16	.
2	1	..	..
18	..	..	..
	2	2	3
4	24	2	5
13	54	15	10
2	20	4	..
97	161	112	33

## TUBERCULOSIS.

During 1915 it will be noted, as the following table shows, that notifications of Tuberculosis have still further decreased.

		1913.	1914.	1915.
Number of Notifications received	...	227	188	114
Number of Cases to which these Notifications referred	...	160	122	74
Number of Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	99	92	52
Number of Cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	61	30	22
Number of Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	34	46	41
Number of Deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	18	4	14

The notifications were upon Forms A-D, as follows.

Form A	Form B	Form C	Form D
74	6	16	18

On Form A, cases are notified by General Practitioners or by Medical Officers of a Hospital or Institution, when they have reason to believe that the case has not previously been notified. On Form B, School Medical Inspectors notify cases, and on Forms C & D, Medical Officers of Poor Law Institutions or Sanatoria notify the admission or departure of patients to or from the Institution.

The sex distribution of the 74 cases notified, is as follows:—

	Males.	Females.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	28      24
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	8      14

As already noted, the actual population of Colchester during 1915 has been so uncertain that the Pulmonary Tuberculosis death-rate is correspondingly uncertain, though based on the Registrar General's figure it amounts to 1·0 per 1000. I have reason to believe that this figure is really too high.

The number of specimens of Sputum sent for examination were as follows :—

1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
47	90	86	113	165	188	147

### Tuberculosis Officer's Report.

Dr. Macfie has kindly sent me the following statement of the work of his department.

The tables as will be seen, are very much like what they were last year. It is gratifying to see the number of cases sent for diagnosis and the large percentage of these that were found to be without active signs of the disease. All these were referred back to their own doctors with the request that after they had received treatment they might be re-examined at the Tuberculosis Dispensary.

There has been close co-operation and harmony between the General practitioner, the School Medical Officer and the Tuberculosis Department. Many cases have been seen privately in consultation work which is much appreciated by the Department. As will be seen by the number of visits paid close contact has been kept with every notified case and this has been fruitful in bringing contact cases to the Dispensary for diagnosis. The constant visiting has impressed the patient and their friends with the danger of the disease and although the public have now a super fear of the disease it is an error in the right direction. Many of the cases are at full work and attend on Monday evening between 6·30 and 7·30, while many school children are at school and come up on Saturday morning, their whole holiday.

Tuberculin [A.F., P.T.O., K., B.E.] has been used in non-pulmonary cases with great benefit and with marked benefit in some highly suitable chest cases. Tuberculin has also been used diagnostically and a reaction from it has been most helpful in doubtful cases. Several old patients are serving with the colours, a great mistake as the majority will be ultimately discharged as useless. Curious as it may seem the War has on the whole had a good effect.

Phthisis is essentially an introspective disease and this the excitement of the War has greatly lessened. The presence of large

numbers of troops in Colchester has circulated money and every one has benefited. The separation allowances have been a God-send and billeting has paid well when properly managed.

The beds at Colchester Isolation Hospital reserved for Consumptives have been always full and the patients there are splendidly looked after. The beds there are intended for somewhat advanced cases and considering this the results have been satisfactory.

This report has been purposely curtailed but it is to be hoped that no outstanding feature of the work of the Dispensary has been overlooked.

### **Work of the Tuberculosis Dispensary, 1915.**

Cases on the Register 1st January, 1915 :— Pulmonary cases 38, Non-Pulmonary cases 5.

	Numbers.
Patients attending the Dispensary ... ... ...	186
Attendances made by Patients ... ... ...	2,014
Visits paid by Tuberculosis Officer ... ... ...	161
,,      ,,      Nurse ... ... ...	1,037
Cases for Diagnosis ... ... ...	98
Cases with Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ...	28
,, Non-Pulmonary     ,, ... ...	7
Cases not suffering from Tuberculosis ...	63

The following table shows the number of times each of the cases attended the Dispensary.

110 Patients attended from 1 to 10 times.

25	,	"	"	11 to 20	,
15	,	"	"	21 to 30	,
22	,	"	"	31 to 40	,
14	,	"	"	41 to 50	,

## **Summary of the year's Work.**

(Out of these, 8 remain on the Treatment Register.)

One child was sent back to school but broke down again, and is now on the Treatment Register.

The above figures only refer to Colchester, and do not include Patients from the neighbouring districts.

## Bacteriological Laboratory Work.

Specimens Examined.	Sent by General Practitioners.		Sent by M.O.H.		Totals.
	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	
Swabs for Diphtheria Bacillus ..	31	167	143	666	1007
Sputum for Tuberclle Bacillus ..	37	110	..	..	147
Blood for Widal's (Typhoid) Reaction ..	5	5	6	6	22

It should be remembered that in 1914, during special examination, 160 swabs from Lexden School were examined, this partly explaining the smaller number of swabs examined (1310); also that the sputum examination of cases at the Infectious Hospital, and Tuberculosis Dispensary have, since May, been sent to London for examination, this work being directly under the supervision of the County Council.



**Meteorological  
and  
Statistical Tables.**



**Rainfall Returns—Osborne Street Depot.**

Month.	Total depth in inches.	Greatest fall in 24 hours.	Number of days with .01 or more recorded.
January .. ..	2.36	0.32	21
February .. ..	2.79	0.53	18
March .. ..	0.93	0.22	22nd
April .. ..	0.77	0.26	12th
May .. ..	1.82	1.18	13th
June .. ..	0.56	0.31	28th
July .. ..	3.60	0.64	16th
August .. ..	2.14	0.60	4th
September .. ..	1.42	0.22	13th
October .. ..	1.53	0.44	31st
November .. ..	1.94	0.92	11th
December .. ..	4.20	0.65	9th
Totals .. ..	24.06		157

**Table I.**—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1915 and previous years.

\* Registrar General's estimate of civilian population for 1915.

† In Column 6 are to be included the whole of the deaths registered during the calendar year as having actually occurred within the district, **but excluding the deaths of Soldiers and Sailors that have occurred in hospitals and institutions in the district.** Information as to the number and causes of such deaths should, however, be given in the text of the report.

<sup>†</sup> "Transferable Deaths" are deaths of persons who, having a fixed or usual residence in England and Wales, die in a district other than that in which they resided.

Total population at all ages .. .  
Total families or separate occupants .. .  
Area of District in acres (land and inland water) .. .

At Census, 1911.

**Table II.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1915.\***

Notifiable Diseases.	Number of Cases Notified.										Total Cases Notified in each Locality, (e.g. Parish or Ward) of the District.				Total Cases removed to Hospital.	
	At Ages—Years.															
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	North Ward.	South Ward.	East Ward.	West Ward.				
Small Pox .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	
Cholera .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	
Plague .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	
Diphtheria (including Mem-branous Croup) ..	45 ..	13	21	8	3	..	..	..	10	5	16	14	44			
Erysipelas .. ..	44 ..	1 ..	.. ..	8	12	15	8	15	15	11	14	4	.. ..			
Scarlet Fever .. ..	279 ..	2	29	159	55	30	1	..	106	84	47	42	191			
Typhus Fever .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..		
Enteric Fever .. ..	11 ..	.. ..	2	4	5	..	..	..	3	5	2	1	11			
Relapsing Fever .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..		
Continued Fever .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..		
Puerperal Fever .. ..	1 .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..		
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis .. ..	7 ..	2	3	.. ..	1	.. ..	1	.. ..	.. ..	4	1	2	3			
Poliomyelitis .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. ..	4 ..	4	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	3	.. ..	1	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..		
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. ..	51 ..	.. ..	14	10	18	9	.. ..	.. ..	11	18	15	7	.. ..			
Other forms of Tuberculosis .. ..	22 ..	1	5	9	2	3	2	.. ..	3	9	6	4	.. ..			
<b>Totals .. ..</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>249</b>			

\* Cases of Infectious Disease occurring amongst Soldiers or Sailors should not be included in this Table, but a separate statement as to these, when known, should be given in the body of the Report.

Isolation Hospital, Mill Road, Mile End, Colchester, provided by the Colchester Borough Council.

### Notes to Table III,

The classification and numbering of Causes of Death are those of the "Short List" on page XXV. of the Manual of the International List of Causes of Death, which should be consulted and followed in all cases of doubt.

- (a) All "Transferable Deaths" of residents, *i.e.*, of persons resident in the District who have died outside it, are to be *included* with the other deaths in columns 2-10. Transferable deaths of non-residents, *i.e.*, of persons resident elsewhere in England and Wales who have died in the District, are in like manner to be *excluded* from these columns. For the precise meaning of the term "transferable deaths" see footnote to Table I.

The total deaths in column 2 of Table III. should equal the figures for the year in column 12 of Table I.

- (b) All deaths occurring in institutions for the sick and infirm situated within the district, whether of residents or of non-residents, are to be entered in the last column of Table III.
- (c) All deaths certified by registered Medical Practitioners and all Inquest cases are to be classed as "Certified"; all other deaths are to be regarded as "Uncertified."
- (d) Exclusive of "Tuberculous Meningitis" (10), but inclusive of Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.
- (e) Title 19 should be used for Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis at all ages.

**Table III.—Deaths registered during the Calendar Year, 1915, classified by age and cause.**

		Nett Deaths of the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring with- in or without the District (a).									
		All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwaris.	Total Deaths whether of "Resi- dents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District (b).
All Causes {	Certified (c)	555	63	20	28	27	25	59	108	225	369
	Uncertified	14	4	2	..	..	..	1	4	3	..
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Small Pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	..	8	3	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	9
Scalet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Whooping Cough	..	8	4	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup	..	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	3
Influenza	..	9	..	1	1	..	..	..	3	4	..
Erysipelas	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	..	41	..	..	3	12	13	13	..	..	36
Tuberculous Meningitis	..	7	1	..	2	4	..	..	..	..	2
Other Tuberous Diseases	..	7	..	1	1	2	1	2	..	..	10
Cancer, malignant disease	..	43	..	..	1	..	..	7	15	20	15
Rheumatic Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis (see note d)	..	14	6	2	3	..	1	..	2	..	7
Organic Heart Disease	..	77	..	..	..	4	1	7	19	46	47
Bronchitis	..	50	9	5	1	..	..	1	9	25	9
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	40	7	2	4	1	2	7	11	6	37
Other diseases of respiratory organs	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	7	2
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (see note e)	..	4	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	..	7	..	..	1	4	1	..	1	..	13
Cirrhosis of Liver	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	2
Alcoholism	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	..	26	..	..	..	1	..	3	7	9	21
Puerperal Fever	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	..	3	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	2
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	..	23	23	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Violent deaths, excluding Suicide	..	11	..	..	1	2	..	2	3	3	11
Suicide	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Other Defined Diseases	..	181	13	6	7	4	6	12	26	107	130
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	..	569	67	22	28	27	25	60	112	228	369
SUB-ENTRIES (included in above figures)—											
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	..	4	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	2
Pneumonia	..	22	2	..	..	1	1	5	10	3	28

#### Notes to Table IV.

- (a) The total in the last column of Table IV. should equal the total in column 10 of Table I, and in column 3 of Table III.
- (b) Under Abdominal Tuberculosis are to be included deaths from Tuberculous Peritonitis and Enteritis and from Tabes Mesenterica.
- (c) The total deaths from Congenital Malformations, Premature Birth, Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus, should equal the total in Table III, for ages under 1 year, under the heading Congenital Debility, and Malformation including Premature Birth.  
Want of Breast Milk should be included under Atrophy and Debility.
- (d) For reference to the meaning of any other headings, *see* notes attached to Table III.

**Table IV. -- Infant Mortality.**

1915. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages  
under 1 Year of Age.

Causes of Death.			Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 4 Weeks.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All Causes	Certified ..	14	2	2	2	20	17	9	7	10	63	63
	Uncertified ..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	..	4	4
Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	3
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	1	..	..	4
Erysipelas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	2	1	1	6
Convulsions ..	..	2	..	..	..	2	3	3	1	1	1	10
Bronchitis ..	..	..	..	2	..	2	2	1	2	2	2	9
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	4	..	7
Diarrhoea ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Congenital Malformations ..	..	4	..	..	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	5
Premature Birth ..	..	4	2	..	..	6	1	..	..	..	..	7
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ..	5	..	..	1	6	3	1	1	..	..	..	11
Other Causes ..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	2
Totals ..	..	16	2	2	2	22	17	9	9	10	67	67

Nett Births in the Year .. { Legitimate .. 746  
Illegitimate .. 42

Nett Deaths in the Year of .. { Legitimate Infants.. 65  
Illegitimate Infants 2





